PRELUDE TO

INFINITY

AVENGERS

MARVEL NOW!

AR

HICKMAN
SPENCER
CASELLI
MARTIN

017

PREVIOUSLY IN AVENGERS

GALADOR.

YOU BROUGHT ME HERE JUST TO SEE THIS, DIDN'T YOU? THIS IS GOING TO BE BAD, ISN'T IT?

THE OTHERS WON'T HEAR IT COMING FROM ME, BUT THEY WILL LISTEN TO YOU. GO BACK AND TELL THE AVENGERS.

THEY HAVE NOT DONE ENOUGH, THE MACHINE IS NOT COMPLETE. TO PROTECT A WORLD YOU MUST POSSESS THE POWER TO DESTROY A WORLD.

THEY NEED TO GET BIGGER.

S.H.I.E.L.D. OBSERVATION STATION: THE HUB.

DR. BANNER! WE NEED--

NO...NOT NOW...

OH HELL.

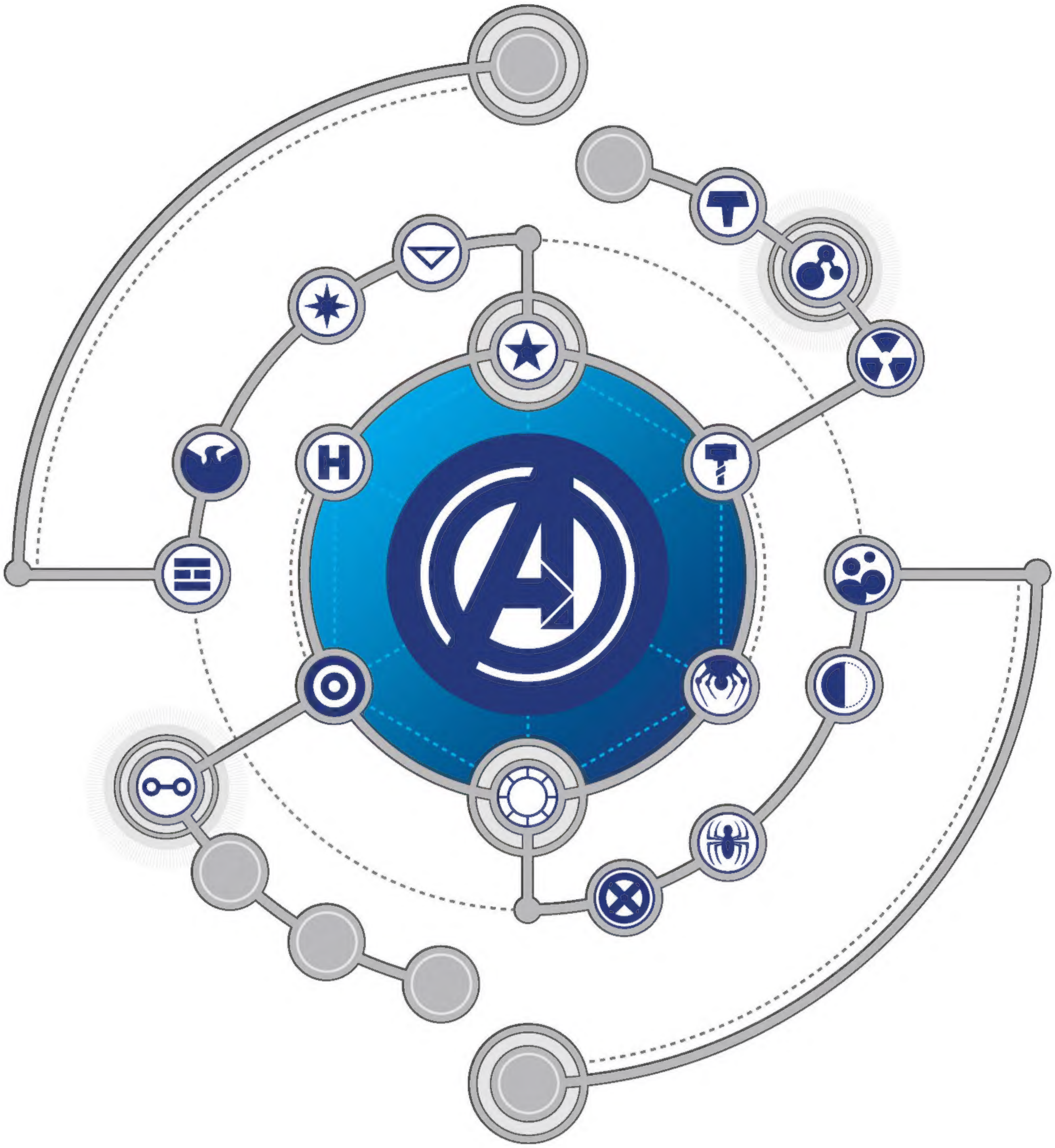
A.I.M. ISLAND.

WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER EQUIPPED--EVEN IF THE THING WAS EXPONENTIALLY STRONGER THAN INITIALLY BELIEVED. STILL, JUST LOOK AT WHAT IT HAS DONE TO THE AVENGERS. WHAT CARNAGE! WHAT POTENTIAL!

PROCUREMENT DIVISION! ACTIVATE THE TRANSLOCATOR! ACCESS THE BREACH, AND OPEN THE DOOR TO NOTHING...

PERTH.

"...WE HAVE A WAYWARD SON TO CATCH."



EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

CAPTAIN AMERICA · IRON MAN · THOR · HAWKEYE · BLACK WIDOW · HULK
WOLVERINE · SPIDER-MAN · CAPTAIN MARVEL · SPIDER-WOMAN
FALCON · SHANG-CHI · SUNSPOT · CANNONBALL · MANIFOLD
SMASHER · CAPTAIN UNIVERSE · HYPERION

"...TO THE LIGHT"

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PEATH.

IT'S ALL RIGHT...

I JUST WANT TO TALK.

DON'T WORRY.

I WANT YOU TO SEE SOMETHING. I WOULD HAVE SHOWN IT TO YOU AS SOON AS YOU EMERGED...

CLICK

...BUT YOU LEFT A.I.M. ISLAND IN SUCH A RUSH.

THOUGH I CAN SEE YOU HAD YOUR REASONS.

BEST WE CAN TELL, THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU...

IT STARTED ON MARS AND SPREAD TO EARTH. MOST PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD THOUGHT IT WAS AN ATTACK.

BUT AFTER LOOKING CLOSELY, WE KNEW IT WAS MORE LIKE AN INFECTION.

A WAY TO REMAKE THE ENTIRE PLANET, BUT IT GOT INTERRUPTED.

WHEN YOU HATCHED FROM YOUR COCOON, IT WAS INTO A WORLD THAT MAYBE DIDN'T REALLY WANT, OR NEED, YOU...AND NOW YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

WELL... DON'T WORRY, WE CAN HELP YOU.

YOU'RE A GREAT POWER THAT NO ONE KNOWS HOW TO CONTROL, THAT MAYBE EVEN YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO CONTROL...BUT WE CAN TEACH YOU. IT'LL JUST TAKE TIME...

...AND A MORE CONDUCIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT.

THIS MIGHT HURT A BIT.

FWASSSS

A.I.M. HIGH COMMAND-- THIS IS SUPERIA.

DID YOU GET HIM?

WE HAVE HIM. TRANSLOCATION TO THE ISLAND WAS SUCCESSFUL. TUNNELING INTO TRANS-UNIVERSAL SPACE... ALSO SUCCESSFUL.

UNTIL IT'S CALLED UPON, THERE'S LITTLE DAMAGE IT'LL BE ABLE TO INFLICT. AFTER ALL...

"NOTHING EXISTS IN THE SPACE BETWEEN TWO DEAD UNIVERSES."

HOWEVER, ONE SUCCESS DOES NOT MEAN TOTAL SUCCESS, SUPERIA. THERE IS MORE WORK TO BE DONE--AND YOU HAVE LITTLE TIME TO ACCOMPLISH IT.

ARE THE HARVESTERS READY?

THEY'RE COLLECTING WHAT THEY NEED NOW--

SHOULD I KNOW WHAT THIS IS ABOUT? OR WHY WE'RE NOT JUST KILLING THE AVENGERS?

NOT FOR NOW. IT'S AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT DEPARTMENT, SUPERIA...

AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT TYPE OF EXPERIMENT.

THOUGH YOU WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TO CONFUSE EVOLUTION AND ADAPTATION.

FINE. WHEN THEY'RE FINISHED, WE'LL NEED A REDIRECTION ON THE LURE, TO TRANSLOCATE US BACK TO--

A MACHINE? THAT'S WHAT YOU USE TO TELEPORT?

HOW ADORABLE.

IT'S EDEN FESI, MA'AM-- MANIFOLD! HE'S THEIR TELEPORTER! HE'S--

HRRK!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO MY FRIENDS. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HAPPENED HERE...

BUT IT ENDS NOW.

GUARDS!

IT'S TIME FOR YOU GUYS TO LEAVE...

AND I DON'T CARE WHERE YOU GO.

NO! GET YOUR HANDS OFF--

--ME.

DAMN.

CAPTAIN--

UHH...

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

NN...WE GOT IT HANDED TO US IS WHAT HAPPENED...

IS IT GONE?

IS WHAT GONE? THE A.I.M. AGENTS? YES, I TOOK CARE OF THAT.

NO, THE GIANT DEATH ROBOT THING. IT WAS...

NEVER MIND. BANNER IS AT THE S.H.I.E.L.D. HUB. HE'LL KNOW...

DOCTOR BANNER? YOU COPY?

DOCTOR BANNER?

UHNN... WUH...I...

BRUCE? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'M NAKED AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I AM...

SO JUST A REGULAR WEDNESDAY.

YOU WANT TO TELL ME HOW THINGS WENT ON YOUR END?

LATER.

STARK

"WE HAVE TO GET BIGGER."

THAT'S WHAT CAPTAIN UNIVERSE TOLD YOU TO SAY TO US?

YES. EXACT WORDS. THEN SHE PLANTED AN IMAGE IN MY MIND. THE RED PLANET. A YELLOW SUN.

YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THAT?

PFFT. FORGET THE FINER POINTS. "BIGGER?" LOOK, IT'S NOT FOR ONE OF THE NEW GUYS TO SAY, BUT--FEELING KINDA CROWDED AROUND HERE ALREADY.

THERE ARE, LIKE, TWO SHOWERS--TWO.

GUYS!

I'M TELLING YOU WHAT I SAW. THESE THINGS--WHAT THEY WERE ABOUT TO DO TO THAT WORLD--

WE NEED TO LISTEN TO WHAT SHE SAID.

RIGHT. EVERYONE, YOU'RE DISMISSED--THANK YOU. TONY--

YEAH, OF COURSE.

CAROL, CAN YOU GET SOME ACTION INTEL ON EDEN'S INFO?

SURE. HEY, YOU WANT TO HANG OUT IN THE OPS CENTER? DOWNLOAD AND ANALYZE SOME DATA FROM A DEEP SPACE SATELLITE?

GOD, NO. I'M GETTING IN LINE FOR THE SHOWER.

HATE YOU.

DOCTOR BANNER, IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU NEEDED TO--

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

PROCEED.

BRUCE, THERE'S A--

NO, IT'S FINE.

LET'S GO.

IN MY OPINION, THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS... DO WE THINK SHE'S RIGHT?

UP UNTIL NOW, CRAZY OR NOT, HAS SHE BEEN WRONG?

NO...

BUT OUR SYSTEM PREDATED HER INVOLVEMENT. WHAT SHE'S SUGGESTING...

IS RADICAL BEYOND ANY OF OUR PREVIOUS PLANS.

I KIND OF LIKE IT.

OF COURSE YOU DO.

LET'S JUST TRY THINGS BECAUSE WE CAN, RIGHT?

I FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO GET OFF YOUR CHEST, BRUCE.

YEAH. ALL THREE OF US KNOW EXACTLY WHO SHE'S TALKING ABOUT.

AND HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT SCENARIOS WOULD NECESSITATE THOSE PEOPLE?

BECAUSE WE HAVE.

MORE THAN YOU KNOW.

"LOOKS LIKE IT'S GAME TIME, BRUCE. YOU WANNA TAKE A LITTLE TRIP?"

MARS.

HOW MUCH FARTHER?

WE'RE THERE.

WELL, ABYSS... WHO WOULD HAVE IMAGINED WHAT THIS DAY WOULD BRING?

VISITORS. AND NOT THE BORING KIND.

THANK THE GODDESS IN ALL HER GLORIOUS SPLENDOR...I AM DYING FOR SOME ENTERTAINMENT.

I WOULD ASK WHY THEY HAVE COME HERE, EX NIHILO...BUT IT'S WRITTEN ALL OVER THEIR FACES.

SHOULD I BE HAPPY, SISTER?

THAT DEPENDS. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET OFF THIS ROCK?

THIS ROCK IS OUR HOME, HUMAN.

I KNOW THIS, BECAUSE IT'S WHAT MOTHER TOLD ME...THE GODDESS, SHE IS MERCIFUL AND WITHOUT FLAW.

SHE'S CRAZYPANTS...BUT WHATEVER.

SHOW IT TO THEM, EDEN.

OKAY...

I WAS INSTRUCTED BY *HER* TO ASK *YOU* TO JOIN US.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SAYING THIS...BUT YOU HAVE BEEN SUMMONED, EX NIHILO. AS HAVE YOU, ABYSS.

DO YOU HAVE IT IN YOU TO BE AVENGERS?

WELL?

FSSSHHH

A MOMENT, CAPTAIN...

THERE!

I HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT LIFE IS TO BE SAVORED. AND ISN'T THIS JUST LIKE LIFE?

THE WAY WE THOUGHT THINGS WERE IS RARELY HOW THEY TURN OUT TO BE.

I AM EX NIHILO. AVENGER.

"JUST AS IT WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE."

THE SUN.

YOU'RE BUILDING A DYSON SPHERE, TONY?

SUBCONTRACTING, BUT YES.

HOW FAR ALONG--

WE'RE OPERATING AT .008 PERCENT NOW.

THAT'S... THAT'S ROUGHLY ENOUGH ENERGY TO POWER A MOON.

I CAN DO BETTER.

THEY'RE IN HERE.

"FOLLOW ME."

THEY ARE HERE, KEVIN. THEY'VE COME FOR US.

OUR NOW HAS FINALLY REACHED OUR FUTURE.

YOU THINK I'M READY?

DO YOU?

YES.

"THEN IT'S TIME."

IT WAS THE SPARK THAT STARTED THE FIRE--A LEGEND THAT GREW IN THE TELLING.

AFTER THE LIGHT.

BEFORE THE WAR.

AND BEFORE THE FALL.

THEY WERE THE LAST DAYS OF THE GREAT IDEA--AN AVENGERS WORLD.

WE WERE FINAL OPTIONS.

WE WERE LAST RESORTS.

WE WERE WORLD BUILDERS AND WORLD BREAKERS.

AND IN THE LAST DAYS OF LIFE, BEFORE A SEASON OF DEATH...

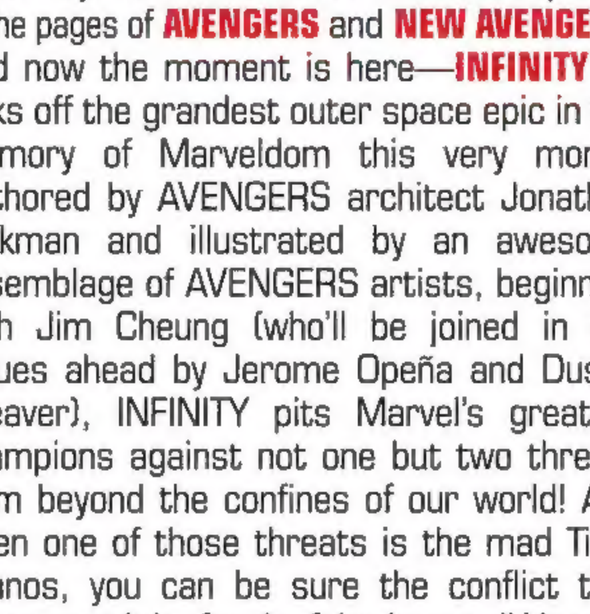
WE WERE AVENGERS.

END PRELUDE

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

You got a taste of it this past Free Comic Book Day! You've witnessed the build-up to it in the pages of **AVENGERS** and **NEW AVENGERS**! And now the moment is here—**INFINITY #1** kicks off the grandest outer space epic in the memory of Marveldom this very month! Authored by AVENGERS architect Jonathan Hickman and illustrated by an awesome assemblage of AVENGERS artists, beginning with Jim Cheung (who'll be joined in the issues ahead by Jerome Opeña and Dustin Weaver), INFINITY pits Marvel's greatest champions against not one but two threats from beyond the confines of our world! And when one of those threats is the mad Titan Thanos, you can be sure the conflict that follows won't be for the faint-hearted! You can expect to see the events of INFINITY impact all across the Marvel line in the months to come, especially in our own AVENGERS family of titles! And it all starts on 8/14 at your local comic shop or digitally on the Marvel App!



Hey, you AR fanatics! We're so excited about INFINITY this month that we wanted to clue you in to a little Easter Egg we've planted for you to find! Embedded within the pages of the various "Prelude to INFINITY" issues of AVENGERS and NEW AVENGERS (that's AVENGERS #14-17 and NEW AVENGERS #7-8) we've hidden AR activations that will give you the inside scoop on some of what you'll be seeing in the main INFINITY event! To access them, all you need to do is point the Marvel AR App on your digital device at the appropriate page! Which page? Hey, we can't make everything easy for you! But we're confident that genuine dyed-in-the-wool True Believers will be able to hunt them out!

You'd like a feel-good letter to close out on, wouldn't you?

January 6 my husband and I celebrated our eleven year anniversary, and I know that I am blessed to be married to a true super hero. I turned 42 on December 21 and enjoy reading comics. It's actually my first time to read comics ever!

I grew up being taught this stuff was inappropriate and almost evil. I would secretly watch the Hulk on TV and worked at a movie theatre where I had the excuse to try and enjoy entertainment. Comics were for boys anyway. Super heroes were a joke.

When my husband and I were married he knew I was uncomfortable with all his comics, so he sold them.

Then on July 4th, 2007 I lay in a hospital room as a doctor walked in and diagnosed me with Leukemia. The next five months the hospital would be my second home and three more months on an experimental chemo with the hope of keeping me alive. I would go at times seven days a week for twenty-four hours a day having chemo pumped into a port in my chest. The times I was able to come home my husband would have to give me shots every day, cook, write the bills, clean, laundry, and he even came down with the flu and still kept going. He also had to go to work and I still always had a homemade sandwich brought to me every day while in the hospital. He was Hulk smashing through it all!!

The next thing we knew we were hiking the Grand Canyon! We just celebrated me being five years Leukemia-free!

The Avengers were about to be released in the theatre and Jason was really pumped for this. There was no way I would let my super hero miss this because of me even though I was not excited. Super heroes were a joke, remember? I decided we could rent Thor so I would at least know another super hero besides Hulk. STOP THE PRESS!!! That moment changed everything! I couldn't believe the amazing story I was seeing.

It didn't stop there because I had us watching Iron Man and Captain America while my husband sat there frozen in disbelief! Then the big day in May came, and I don't think Jason had fully recovered from shock as he sat next to the once super hero hater who now anxiously awaited the start of the movie!

The rest is history and now I am the one telling him which comics are coming out and making sure we don't miss one issue! What a perfect time for a new beginning in Marvel comics! We now are getting Thor, Iron Man, Captain America, Hulk, Avengers Assemble, and Avengers.

We now have comic night and I get to read Thor and Iron Man first but he gets first call on the others. I love the different art in each comic and how so many awesome stories can be told. I think every hospital should be required to have a subscription to Marvel Comics. We need this in the world we live in. Comics and heroes are great and it's okay to like them. When you see a whole bunch of families and friends cheering together in a movie and seeing the fun reading the comics has brought to me and my husband, how could that be wrong?

It could be cancer or whatever obstacle that will enter our lives that may seem too much to handle but I believe we are never given anything we are not able to conquer, so put the hammer down on it or Hulk smash your way through it or whatever superpower you love–just use it and don't give up! Thanks again, Marvel, for keeping the stories going!

Kimberly Kappmeyer
Lady Asgard

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THE AVENGERS ACADEMY SEARCHES FOR ITS MISSING STUDENTS!

AVENGERS ARENA #14
"BOSS LEVEL," THE FINAL STORY ARC, BEGINS!

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